

Soldiers

Online

Soldiers on the



SSG Javier Hernandez (left) and SPC Nicole Kasem, broadcast journalists with SRTV, talk with Dr. (COL) Paul Little during an edition of SRTV's "Army Newswatch." Little is the program's medical editor.

Soldiers
RADIO &
TELEVISION

Story by Sarah McCoy
Photos by SSG John Valceanu

THE set looks like any other newscast studio, complete with cameras, lights and microphones; but, with anchors dressed in Army greens and shiny brass, it plays to a much different audience. This TV broadcast studio in Alexandria, Va., belongs to Soldiers Radio and Television, which bi-weekly produces "Army Newswatch," a program created by and for soldiers.

"It's a product tailored to our lifestyle," said senior production editor SSG Scott Speaks. "It's a link to the issues concerning our occupation, community and overall quality of life."

Sarah McCoy was a Soldiers summer intern. She is currently a mass communications major at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va.



(Left) SSG Scott Speaks edits a video broadcast using SRTV's state-of-the-art equipment. SRTV products reach soldiers around the world via the American Forces Network.

(Below) SRTV's chief engineer, Gene Gunderson *(left)*, discusses technical issues with SRTV Director Clark Taylor.

Airwaves

In addition to "Army Newswatch," SRTV produces the radio programs "Army Pentagon Newsbreak" and "Army NewsNotes," and programs for the Soldiers Radio Network service. All of these provide listeners and viewers with current information of the Army's actions throughout the world. SRTV's number one mission is to bring news and entertainment to soldiers, but its actual reach is much more extensive.

"There are many audiences that are interested in the Army's message: active duty living outside the Army community, retirees and National Guard, Reserves – and their families," said SRTV director Clark Taylor. "How do we reach all these people? Well, we didn't for years. But now with the electronic age, we are able to."

SRTV programs provide a window

into the news abroad and at home, plus coverage of Army policies and community activities, reaching a broad range of interests. Programs focus on soldiers first but also serve the larger Army community.

"Army children are watching. They have an interest because their entire lives have been wrapped up in the military," Taylor said. "It's far reaching. The programs could even be used as recruiting tools. 'Army Newswatch' tells you what's going on in the Army. There are some really interesting things happening that civilians might want to be part of. It's a great tool for recruiters."

Many networks furnish local and national news, but none provide a detailed account of Army life like these programs, Taylor said.

Through the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, the programs

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SRTV Products


See SRTV pullout at page 40



SGT Eric Pahon works the sound board during a radio broadcast. SRTV broadcasters may work with both radio and video.


SOLDIERS Radio and Television is part of the Information Strategy Division in the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. Its programs are broadcast by Armed Forces Radio and Television Service overseas and by networks in the continental United States. The programs include:


"Army Pentagon Newsbreak" and "Army NewsNotes"

 "Newsbreak" is a daily five-minute radio newscast reported by SRTV correspondents, public affairs personnel in CONUS or overseas, and journalist from AFRTS.

 "NewsNotes" is a daily two-minute radio news feature. Both programs can be heard on Soldiers Radio Satellite Network affiliate stations. The latest "Pentagon Newsbreak" can be heard on the Internet at www.army.mil.

"Army Newswatch" and "Soldiers Television Service"

 "Newswatch" is a bi-weekly 30-minute newscast, distributed to commercial stations and CONUS installations.

 SRTV provides a collection of information from video news releases, the Army Reserves, AFRTS outlets, major commands, installation PAOs, and public service announcements in the Soldiers Television Service weekly package.

— Sarah McCoy

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created at SRTV are distributed to 140 countries around the world.

"Our product is provided to all soldiers no matter where they are overseas," Taylor said.

In the United States, the programs are distributed to commercial stations and CONUS installations that then air them in time slots that meet local needs. You can often find time and station information by checking your post newspaper or by contacting your local Public Affairs Office.

Taylor said SRTV is working hard to provide the Army with quality programs that appeal to the interests of

soldiers everywhere, and it has been well recognized for its achievements. For example, "Newswatch" has been awarded the 1998 Thomas Jefferson award as the top TV newscast in the Department of Defense, a Crystal Communicators award for broadcast excellence and two "Telly" awards.

To cover the broad scope of Army operations and activities, SRTV has editors who specialize in areas such as environment; medical news; morale, welfare and recreation; and space and missile defense. Their reports go out to both radio and television audiences.

"We're proud of our products,"

Taylor said. "Our goal is to give the Army public something that keeps their attention, keeps them interested, and at the same time gives them the information they need to be good soldiers. It's quality news." □



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on SRTV visit**

**www.army.mil/srtv
or phone (703) 325-5535**